

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1261

E.O. 11652: GDS: 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION: ACTION PROGRAM

REF: A. USNATO 950; B. STATE 035168; C. USNATO 1140

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION PROGRAM TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN NATO RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION. REQUEST WASHINGTON APPROVAL OR GUIDANCE.

END SUMMARY.

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B AND AS REPORTED IN REF C, OSD OFFICERS BRIEFED THE EWG ON FEBRUARY 28 ON AN CONFIDENTIAL

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ILLUSTRATIVE US APPROACH TO RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION. EWG MEMBERS RECEIVED THE BRIEFING WITH THOUGHTFUL COMMENT AND AGREED TO FORWARD THE WRITTEN TEXT TO CAPITALS FOR CONSIDERATION.

2. THE NATO SPECIALIZATION STEERING GROUP HAS COMPLETED ITS FINAL REPORT (REF A) WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE DPC ON MAR 13. THE REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT SPECIALIZATION STUDIES CONTINUE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE EWG WITH APPROPRIATE AD HOC SUBGROUPS FOR THE THREE SERVICES, LOGISTICS AND/OR SPECIAL FIELDS AS REQUIRED.

3. AS A BASIS FOR FUTURE WORK IN THE EWG ALONG THE LINES OF THE US ILLUSTRATIVE MATRIX, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US PROPOSE THE TITLE OF RATIONALIZATION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. THE IDEA OF SPECIALIZATION AS SUCH HAS BECOME REPUGNANT TO MANY OF OUR ALLIES. MOST EUROPEANS FEAR THAT THROUGH SPECIALIZATION, THEY MAY INHERIT UNATTRACTIVE LOGISTIC SUPPORT TASKS WHILE THE US PICKS UP HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS. THERE IS THEN A DANGER IN THEIR VIEW THAT THE US WILL WITHDRAW FROM EUROPE LEAVING THEM WITHOUT THE NECESSARY SOPHISTICATED MEANS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

B. ALLIES ARE ALSO APPREHENSIVE THAT UNDER SPECIALIZATION, THEIR MILITARY FORCES COULD BECOME SO TAILORED TO NATO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM NATIONAL TASKS THAT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA.

C. POWERFUL MILITARY SERVICE AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THE SMALLER COUNTRIES ARE AFRAID THAT NATIONAL FUNCTIONS IMPORTANT TO THEM WILL BE LOST TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY.

D. SOME ALLIES ARGUE THAT THE US WARTIME LOC PROPOSAL IS NOT STRICTLY A SPECIALIZATION SUBJECT, NOR ARE SUCH ITEMS AS INTEROPERABILITY OF COMMUNICATIONS. CHANGING THE NAME TO RATIONALIZATION WILL NOT ENTIRELY REMOVE THESE DOUBTS AND FEARS BUT IT MAY BE USEFUL AS A PALLIATIVE.

4. FOLLOWING THE DPC MEETING OF MARCH 13, MISSION WOULD REQUEST AN EARLY EWG MEETING TO CONSIDER ALLIED COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS RESULTING FROM THE US ILLUSTRATIVE BRIEFING.
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5. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE US PROPOSE FOUR SPECIFIC STUDIES AS FOLLOW-UP TO THE US BRIEFINGS:

A) LOGISTIC SUPPORT. THE EWG SHOULD REQUEST THE LOGISTIC SUBGROUP TO STUDY THE BENELUX LOC CONCEPT OF A HIGH PRIORITY BASIS AND TO REPORT TO THE EWG BY MAY 1 HOW THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN A RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION MATRIX.

B) RECIPROCAL USE OF NATO AND NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. NOW THAT THE POLICY UMBRELLA FOR THE USE OF NATO AND NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES HAS BEEN APPROVED (DPC/D(74)2), THE EWG COULD REQUEST THE

NATO JOINT COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE AND NICSMA TO CONTINUE WITH CURRENT STUDIES ON HIGH PRIORITY BASIS, CONSIDER NEW APPROACHES, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EWG BY 1 MAY FOR CONSIDERATION AS PART OF A RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION MATRIX.

C) NIKE AIR DEFENSE. THE EWG SHOULD ASK MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO STUDY THE PROPOSAL IN THE US ILLUSTRATIVE MATRIX THAT THE FRG TAKE OVER NIKE AIR DEFENSE SITES. MILITARY AUTHORITIES SHOULD PROVIDE ESTIMATES OF ANY INCREASED COSTS TO THE FRG AS WELL AS SAVINGS ACCRUING TO OTHER COUNTRIES. MILITARY AUTHORITIES SHOULD REPORT THIS INFORMATION TO THE EWG BY 1 MAY FOR USE IN THE SPECIALIZATION MATRIX.

D) NEW TRADE-OFFS OF MILITARY FUNCTIONS. THE EWG SHOULD REQUEST THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES, AND ESPECIALLY NATO COMMANDERS, PREPARE SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER TRADE-OFFS IN MILITARY TASKS THAT WOULD RESULT IN GREATER NATO MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS WITH APPROXIMATELY THE SAME EXPENDITURES OF RESOURCES BY MEMBER COUNTRIES.

6. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON ABOVE PROPOSALS.
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